

OPEN SPACE & AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Reorganization and Regular
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2012
7:00PM

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Agriculture Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:05P.M. Secretary Keller called the Reorganization meeting to order and read the following notice requirements.

Notice Requirements

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and published in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Courier News on December 22, 2011, and by telefaxing a copy of the notice to the Star Ledger, and the Express Times on December 15, 2011. A copy of the notice was also posted in the Kingwood Township Municipal Building and Post Office on December 15, 2011.

In order to ensure full public participation in this meeting, all members of these Committees, and also members of the public are requested to speak only when recognized by the Chair, so that there is no simultaneous discussion or over-talk, and all persons are requested to utilize the microphones which are provided for your use by the Township. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Roll Call

Open Space Advisory Committee

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Phil Lubitz	John Mathieu
Richard Dodds	
Sandra McNicol	
Lee Frank	
Karen Hertzog	
James Burke (arrived 7:18pm)	

Agriculture Advisory Committee

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Elaine Niemann	Cynthia Niciecki
William Pandy	
Edward Kralovich	
Pete D'Costa (arrived at 7:20pm)	

2.

Reorganize

Nomination for Chairperson for Open Space Advisory

It was moved by Richard Dodds, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to nominate Sandra McNicol as the Chairwoman to the Open Space Advisory Committee for the year 2012.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-Lubitz, McNicol, Dodds, Frank, Hertzog
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-None
	Absent	-Mathieu, Burke

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Open Space Advisory

It was moved by Sandra McNicol, seconded by Phil Lubitz and carried to nominate Richard Dodds as Vice Chairman to the Open Space Advisory Committee for the year 2012.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-Lubitz, McNicol, Dodds, Frank, Hertzog
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-None
	Absent	-Mathieu, Burke

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol took over and conducted the meeting at this time.

Nomination for Chairperson for Agriculture Advisory

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by Ed Kralovich and carried to nominate William Pandy Chairman to the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the year 2012.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-Niemann, Pandy, Kralovich
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-None
	Absent	-Niciecki, D'Costa

Nomination for Vice Chairperson for Agriculture Advisory

It was moved by Elaine Niemann, seconded by William Pandy and carried to nominate Cynthia Niciecki Vice Chairwoman to the Agriculture Advisory Committee for the year 2012.

4.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-Lubitz, Burke, McNicol, Dodds, Frank, Hertzog, Niemann, Pandy, Kralovich
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-None
	Absent	-Mathieu, Niciecki, D'Costa

Comments from the Newly Nominated Chairpersons

Sandra McNicol thanked everyone on both of the committees for participating in all types of weather. She stated that it was a great year this last year. She thanked Liz Schmid who helped with preservation of farmland properties in the Township. She also thanked everyone who participated and volunteered their time working on the trails at Horseshoe Bend Park, and to all those who have attended several of the dedications.

William Pandy commented that he feels the same way as Sandra McNicol, and thank you to everyone.

Agriculture Advisory Member Pete D'Costa arrived at 7:20PM.

Approval of Minutes

Motion and approval of December 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes of the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by Richard Dodds and carried to approve the December 6, 2012 Meeting Minutes for the Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committees.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-Lubitz, Burke, McNicol, Dodds, Frank, Hertzog, Niemann, Pandy, Kralovich
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-D'Costa
	Absent	-Niciecki, Mathieu

Correspondence

N/A

Reports

5.

Farmland Preservation - Liz Schmid
(Report for January 10, 2012)

Liz Schmid reviewed the following Report:

Open Space/Agriculture Advisory Committee Report

January 10, 2012

1. Maplewood Farm - We are waiting to hear from the family re: signing the option agreement.
2. Block 30, Lot 6 has expressed interest in some sort of preservation and sale of the property (46+ acres of mostly fields and some woods). As the property is not in our Ag district and abuts a property on Rt. 29 that the State has an interest in. I called Pam Their to see if Green Acres would have an interest in buying the property.
3. They are and have just gotten some new Federal money. The land owner is filling out an application for Green Acre purchase of the majority of the property.
4. We submitted the annual update of our PIG application with the State.
5. Both Helmer (Bl 2 Lot 5) and Gross (Bl 5 Lot 4.03) have signed County option agreements. They have been sent to the State for green light approval before appraisals will be done. The County has not yet gotten an option agreement from Zander (Bl 5 Lot3) as they are still trying to figure out very convoluted ownership on the two parcels.
6. CADB appears to be very negative about farmland in Kingwood. The majority feel that only the best farmland in the County should be preserved, even if there is money available to preserve OK farmland. I will try to push the idea of needing to preserve as much farmland as possible in order to help preserve farmers and farming in the County. Also the need to keep farming local.
7. HLT is applying for farmland preservation for Decker (Bl 24 Lot 8) and Mulligan (Bl 33 Lot 24) and is on the CADB list. The ADA will have to be amended to include these farms if they are to be preserved through the County program. Do you want me to do the paper work to do this? They would come first after Maplewood, Gross, Helmer and Zander. At \$7,000/acre, there would be a total cost of @\$174,200. If HLT asks the Township for the usual 20% participation, we would need \$348,400. If they need more, it could be twice that.

6.

We do not really know if State funds will be available for these projects. HLT has applied for Federal funds for them.

8. Trstensky has signed an extension of her contract with HLT for her lots (Bl 24, Lots 13.08, 13.09 and 13.10). Appraisals are now being done. HLT is waiting to hear from the Feds about additional funding which will probably be needed to close the deal.

The Committees reviewed maps of proposed properties to be preserved by Richard Dodds, who reviewed them over his computer. Everyone thanked Liz Schmid for her report, and all her hard work.

Richard Dodds noted that there is a piece of land near Fairview Road, which was subdivided for homes and the Land Trust was wondering whether the Township would be interested in preserving this piece of property. There was a brief discussion.

Old Business

Kugler Woods MOA

Richard Dodds noted that he was out with the Scout Masters and stated that the scouts are gearing up. He explained that they applied for a grant to work on the trails for approximately \$4,000. He described the area of where the trails are located.

Hunterdon Land Trust - Activity update

Sandra McNicol explained after talking to Kate Buttolph, that the Township may want to consider purchasing easements on properties in place of purchasing entire farms. She stated that this is something to keep on the back of our minds. Sandra McNicol explained that if the open space committee is interested, she can obtain more information. She reviewed properties that the Hunterdon Land Trust would be interested in preserving. She said several families are interested in preserving their properties in Kingwood Township.

Horseshoe Bend Park Steering Committee - Progress Report

Richard Dodds gave an update of the progress of the park. He handed out maps of the park to review with the members.

7.

He explained that the Township acquired the Horseshoe Bend Park in July of 2011. He showed everyone on the map where the park is located and explained a the history. He explained that the Township only controls and manages approximately 106 acres of the park property. He stated that in August, Mayor Lubitz appointed a steering committee to manage and make decisions on the Horseshoe Bend Park. He explained that they cut the fields after the birds were done nesting, locks were changed on all the buildings, and the trails have been worked on and colored signs have been put up at the beginning of each trail. He explained where they are located. The Open Space Committee sponsored a hike at the park in the spring of 2011. Richard Dodds stated that a club named the Lehigh Valley Coursing Club has their meetings and activities at the park. He stated it is a great place to let your dog's run free. He explained that the park will be opened at dawn and closed at dusk. He stated that park signs are up now and hunting is also going to be reviewed and considered in the future. Richard Dodds explained how the Township may be able to obtain a grant for our part of the park, up to \$20,800.00, which will include many hours of volunteering as a requirement. He stated that many people are walking their dogs, riding bicycles and horses in the park. He explained that National Parks Association has a handbook on trails to get some ideas how to rebuild the trails. Jack MacConnell noted that they had their first medical emergency at the park, and described what happened. He suggested several ideas for incidents that may happen similar to this last one, which would be something to alert the emergency response units to come and help someone in need. Sandra McNicol suggested putting up a sign to defer trailers from going over the Copper Creek Bridge.

Richard Dodds stated that this winter he would like to get more information out to the residents about the park. He feels that people need to know where they can go on the park and areas not allowed.

The Committees talked about the different types of trees in the park. Richard Dodds noted that they need to come up with rules and regulations for the park and to get things straight with the State. He would like to get the toilets working. Frenchtown Community Garden would like to know if Kingwood is interested in having a Community Garden at the Horseshoe Bend Park, where people can come in and put a garden in for themselves.

8.

Richard Dodds described an area where it may be possible to have the garden. He described a landing strip for a helicopter that is located on the property, but is not for use at this time. He explained that it must be inspected and approved by the State and the Township. Richard Dodds handed out and reviewed a copy of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Township and the State for Horseshoe Bend Park. He described the both areas of the park, the one that the Township owns and the part the State owns. James Burke stated that he spoke to a man who is the head of the parks for the State. He explained that the Township may be able to manage the park, and make rules and regulations for the entire area. Richard Dodds noted that the State is actively pursuing a piece of property next to the Horseshoe Bend Park, known as the Cooley property, which is 134 acres. They are also looking at a piece of property near Bulls Island. James Burke explained how they are working with the organizations that have the dog shows on weekends, and how the Township is charging fees that they are receiving for the use of the fields. He noted that this park could potentially bring in a lot of money. It was noted that in the Dog World Magazine, Horseshoe Bend Park was mentioned.

Richard Dodds noted that they were looking for something nice to do for a special person named James Burke, for working so hard to obtain the Horseshoe Bend Park for the Township, and that they have decided to name a stream on the property, called Burkes Run after James Burke. Everyone present clapped and thanked James Burke. Richard Dodds asked everyone to please give their ideas for the Park, which will be given to the Steering Committee to consider.

New Business

Discussion: OS/Ag Goals for 2012

Phil Lubitz suggested Historic Preservation.

Map of Preserved and Projected Properties from Liz Schmid

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol explained the map and the properties that are preserved, and properties that are projected to be preserved in the future. She stated that this is a combination of our preserved farms and our Open Space Acquisitions.

9.

Sandra McNicol suggested that everyone should look over the map and that this will be discussed next month for possible plans for the future. She stated that this is to give a general idea of where we may be going and a point of reference.

Additional Preserved Farm Sign for Ukarish Property

Sandra McNicol noted that she spoke to DPW Supervisor Mark Petro. He suggested that the Township order an additional sign for the Ukarish property, so it can be seen by both directions.

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by James Burke and carried to order an additional sign for the Ukarish Property and to spend up an amount of \$250.00.

Roll Call Vote:	Aye	-Lubitz, Burke, McNicol, Dodds, Frank, Hertzog, Niemann, Pandy, Kralovich, D'Costa
	Nay	-None
	Abstain	-None
	Absent	-Niciecki, Mathieu

New Jersey Trails Grant - February Application Due

Richard Dodds reviewed this earlier in the meeting. He stated that this needs to be submitted to the Township Committee to review and approved.

2012 Municipal Allocation and Distribution County Funds Letter and Spread Sheet

Chairwoman Sandra McNicol reviewed the spread sheet. She stated that this is the amount of taxes collected each quarter.

Public Comment - Privilege of the Floor

Jack MacConnell, Spring Hill Road noted that the locks were changed on the buildings at the Horseshoe Bend Park, and the leaks was taken care of in the well house, due to the freezing of the pipes. He feels that more parking signs need to be put up. He described people burning out with their vehicles on the north driveway. There was a discussion regarding putting up a gate at the beginning of the second entrance. He explained there is a generator box in the large building.

10.

He noted that whoever is given a key to any of the buildings or gates, will need to sign for the key downstairs in the Clerk's office. He stated that there have been parties going on in the park. Jack MacConnell also thanked Jim Burke for all his efforts to purchase the property.

James Burke explained that the Township just purchased a 35 kilowatt generator for the DPW garage for emergencies or a shelter station.

Lee Frank described a 6 day job he finished working with the wetland banks and described a little bit about it. He explained how it works and how they are purchasing lots.

Adjournment

It was moved by Phil Lubitz, seconded by James Burke and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:01PM. **All** voted **Aye** on **Roll Call** **Vote**.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Keller
Secretary